

Rifle Ranger District
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Rifle, CO 81650
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United States Department of Agriculture



Cherry Creek Trail #2256

Length: 3.9 miles one-way (6.3 km one-way)
Beginning Elevation: 7,000 ft. (2,134 m)
USGS Quad Maps: Rifle Falls

Difficulty: Moderate
Ending Elevation: 9,000 ft. (2,743 m)
Use: Moderate

ACCESS: From New Castle travel north on the Buford-New Castle Road (County Road 245), starting from the northwest edge of town. Drive approximately 9.2 miles to the lower trailhead on the right side of the road. The trailhead will be approximately 1 mile north of the Forest boundary.

To access the upper trailhead continue another 8 miles to Forest Road 819, which is across the road from the West Elk Trailhead parking area and bathrooms. Turn right onto Forest Road 819 and travel 0.7 miles to the trailhead, which is located at the south edge of a large clearing across from a long fence line. An additional access point is available by following the fence line up the hill for approximately 100 yards; both paths converge partway down the trail.

TRAIL OVERVIEW: The Cherry Creek Trail closely follows Cherry Creek as it winds through stands of spruce, aspen, scrub oak, and pinyon-juniper. Much of the trail has good shading and is within a few yards of the creek. The north end of the trail begins at an elevation of 9,000 feet before steeply descending into a narrow drainage. Once the initial descent is complete, the middle two-thirds of the trail has a mild to moderate grade with smooth, easy-to-follow tread. Be aware of rocky footing and steeper slopes over the lowermost mile. The lower half of the trail also offers views of the surrounding topography. Wildlife sightings, including deer, elk, bear, mountain lion, and birds of prey, are possible along the entire length of trail.

At the approximate midpoint of the trail, you can follow the Cherry Creek Connector (Trail #2256.1D) 1.4 miles to the west and the Cutoff to Mansfield (Trail #2030) 0.5 miles to the east for some interesting loop possibilities.

TRAIL OPEN TO THE FOLLOWING USES: Bicycling, hiking and horseback riding

ETHICS/REGULATIONS:

- Please be respectful of other trail users
- Please refrain from littering: Pack It In & Pack It Out!
- No camping within 100 feet of any surface waters
- This area is part of an active grazing allotment during the summer; please ride carefully and do not harass the herd

This information is intended for use as guidance only. We strongly suggest purchasing a topographic trail map prior to beginning any trip on the National Forest.

Remember to check current conditions and "Know Before You Go"